

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 18, 2014
6:30 P.M.

At 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular Council Meeting, a Public Meeting was held to discuss the Boys & Girls Club, over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones, and Attorney Kenneth Davis. Mr. DeCar Brown, Ms. Latoria Lewis and Mr. Neal Zimmerman were present to speak on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club, to answer questions and to ask that the City continue to partner with them in an effort to keep the Boys & Girls Club open in Marion.

Mayor Davis then offered a presentation of various "City of Marion" flag displays in order for residents to help make a choice for the new City flag. The flag designs will be available for viewing in other locations and residents are asked to vote for their choice. Once a final choice is made, it will be brought back to City Council for their approval. After attendees voted, the meeting was brought to a close.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on February 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones, and Attorney Kenneth Davis.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV and the Star/Enterprise newspaper)

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on January 14, 2014, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

County Administrator Tim Harper and Emergency Management Director Brandon Ellis presented an Emergency Management Update for the City of Marion and Marion County and what we can and cannot do after the recent ice storm. FEMA will be called in to estimate the damage and determine if there is enough to be declared a disaster. The initial disaster call (Category B) made by the Governor was to get the National Guard in place and for generators, clean up main highways, etc. The disaster relief we are looking for is for public assistance, which deals with recovery and clean-up. The Governor has signed off on this, but FEMA will be in to assess and report to Washington, DC for a declaration to be declared. Mr. Harper thanked the Fire Department for their assistance, and in particular fireman John Richardson, who handled communications. The County has activated their Emergency Debris Management Plan, Debris Contractor and Debris Monitoring Firm and have assessed damage in the City at approximately 30,000 cubic yards of debris, which equates to around \$255,000 of cost associated with the debris. The declaration process could take up to 30 days and if granted will be a 75/25 cost share, with the City having the 25% cost. At the Mayor's request, Mr. Ellis explained the advantage of going along with the plan that is in place by the County. The declaration should allow for Category A, which is debris removal. By going thru with the contract and the plan that the County has in place, allows for accountability in making sure the contractors and sub-contractors are actually picking up debris that is eligible for reimbursement. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson asked if the debris would remain beside the road until the City could pick it up or until we get help. Mr. Harper responded that if the City decides to go along with the activation of the

company that the County has already activated (at this morning's meeting), they will bring in contractors to immediately start picking debris up off the street and hauling to the County landfill. Mayor Davis commented that the City has moved some of the debris off Main Street and taken it to the landfill, to be kept in a separate file for measurement for FEMA. Mayor Davis asks that Council go ahead and partner with the contractor and implement the contract; we may get the 75%, a portion or nothing back, depending on the President and Governor signing the declaration. Mr. Harper stated that if the President declares a disaster, there will be a 75% payment; the Governor has the option on how to handle the other 25%. Mayor Davis thanked them for their time and also requested a hard copy of the Policy and Emergency Plans for the City to have on hand.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow Mayor Davis to negotiate the debris removal contract, which the County has established, and also pay those contractors and costs the City has already incurred; seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson. Motion carried.

Mayor Davis presented the Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award to AWS (American Waste Systems) for their employees' dedication in making sure Marion stays clean and beautiful. Mayor Davis also presented Beautification Awards to Mr. Timothy Wilks, Mr. Trent Rogers and Mr. Justin King for their clean-up assistance after the ice storm.

Mayor Davis created a *Mayor's Beautification Award Committee* and appointed the following: Mrs. Geneva Davis, Ms. Pam Jones, Mr. Al Blake, Mrs. Mary Frazier, Mr. Glenn Bridges, and Mr. Dal Johnson. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept the appointments; seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. Motion carried.

Mayor Davis presented a plaque to Parmar's IGA in appreciation of their continued support and dedication to the citizens of the City of Marion. Mayor Davis commented that they were always willing to help those in need and that their help is much appreciated by the City.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to allow the Pee Dee Chapter of South Carolina Genealogical Society to use the Fire Station meeting room on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to transfer \$3,500 from Police Department petty cash to their vehicle expense account, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried

Mr. DeCar Brown of the Boys & Girls Club thanked the City for their support of the club.

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to for a *Resolution to Grant DAVED/G It's Entertainment the Authority to use Images of the City of Marion as Defined Herein*. Mr. Ammons commented that this would allow the production company use of City buildings in the (2) movies and this resolution has been prepared by the City Attorney for review and Council's consideration. Councilman Michael Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A list of CTC projects was submitted by Mayor Davis and Mr. Ammons for Council's consideration. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow Mayor Davis and Mr. Ammons to move forward with the CTC Funding in the amount of \$402,000. Councilman Emerson Hunt seconded the motion; motion carried.

A stormwater maintenance program is being created by Mr. Ronnie Sanders and Mr. Ammons that will keep the catch basins clean and keep more accurate records.

The discussion on the sale of surplus equipment is postponed until next month.

Mr. Ammons requested that the Cheezem property be re-advertised for sale, using an auction company that he has contacted. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to re-advertise the Cheezem property, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Mr. Ammons thanked all the employees for their hard work during the storm and offered the comment that the City of Marion has the best employees around.

Mayor Davis commented that we know we have serious drainage problems and he has put together packets, including pictures, and presented them to Senator Kent Williams and Representative Wayne George in hopes of getting some funding. Senator Yancey McGill received a packet and Senator Williams will present a packet to Congressman Tom Rice in Washington DC. Pictures are available for viewing.

Richard Flowers in the Sanitation Department was named *Employee of the Month* for January and presented with a gift certificate.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Kenneth Davis had nothing to report at this time. He offered a special thanks to Chief Gray and the Marion Police Department for their assistance when he had a flat tire when passing through Marion late one evening.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Davis stated that the Departmental Reports were sent in Council's packets. Mayor Davis thanked the employees for their outstanding performance during and after the ice storm. Chief Gray thanked everyone for staying home and not being out on the roads during the storm. Mayor Davis thanked police officers Lt. Tony Flowers, Lt. Bessie Gause and Cpl. Derrick Smith for rescuing a missing man on January 30th. They responded with 2 minutes and found him within 5 minutes on a 19 degree morning at approximately 5:30 a.m. Mayor Davis presented them with a letter of appreciation and had a copy of that letter placed in their file.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Emerson Hunt commented on the damages and loss suffered by residents during the ice storm and appreciates the help and services offered by the fire department, police department and others during this disaster. His prayers go out to the City and is proud to be from this beautiful city and we will be back to full glory.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg thanked Chief Cooper for bringing her to the shelter at the fire station. She saw much kindness shown among those staying at the shelter. Much unity was shown during this time and Councilwoman Gregg thanked the fire department, police department, City workers and other citizens who helped.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson thanked the City employees, Administration, office staff and everyone involved who stepped up to the plate to do what they could. He also thanked the County Emergency Management for what they've done to work toward implementing the plan. Councilman Atkinson commented that the City has been devastated and we'll work through this and asks that the citizens be patient and work with us.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson reiterated previous comments and offered his appreciation to the outstanding job the City employees did, as they always do.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented that his sentiments are the same. He is still waiting to hear from SCDOT regarding the speed limit signs for McEachern Heights. Water in ditches in that area is not moving and needs it taken care of. Councilman Frazier thanked the City for the opportunity to attend the MASC conference.

Council Michael Baker thanked the City employees for all they did during the ice storm and also the residents for coming together.

Mayor Davis asked Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders for his comments and Mr. Sanders asked that everyone be patient and thanked the residents for their assistance. Dr. Mary Eaddy still needs members for the Citizen's Advisory Committee, which meets the first Monday of the month at the fire station at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Davis thanked the committee for their efforts in keeping him and Mr. Ammons informed of hazards or areas that need attention.

Mayor Davis thanked the employees for all they did for the City during the ice storm. This was one of Marion's most devastating storms as it affected not just one or two areas, but the entire City. Mayor Davis explained the process of having your power restored if the meter was ripped off your house. The owner has to have an electrician put the meter back on and have it inspected by the City Building Official before the power company will cut the power back on. This is for safety purposes.

Mayor Davis attended the MASC conference and was able to take the new Advanced Courses classes. He congratulated Councilman Frazier for finishing his first Session (A) at the conference.

Mayor Davis was pleased to announce that Reverend Larry Williams of the Tabernacle of God Ministries in Dillon would be coming to Grice's Center on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. with 4 tractor-trailer loads of food which will accommodate 2,000 of our citizens. Mayor Davis asked that everyone spread the word and stated that he believes all that is a result of praying and asking the good Lord to help our people.

There will soon be a meeting at the Opera House or Council Chambers to finalize our choice for our first City flag. There are currently 7 choices and residents will have approximate 2 weeks to vote.

For general information, the Mayor stated that DSS, not the City of Marion, is responsible for those who are able or unable to get food stamps.

Councilman Joseph Frazier asked that press release be issued so that everyone would know what the procedure will be for trash pickup. Mayor Davis commented that the County would handle that and that residents would have to pull their debris out by the street as the contractors and City workers cannot go into their yards to pick the debris up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss: Personnel Matter - Police Department, Contractual Matter - Boys & Girls V=Club, Contractual Matter - Audit Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier and carried.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action was taken. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to return to Regular Session, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to table the Boys & Girls Club Agreement until the Mayor has time to talk with the Club Directors and get a clearer picture; seconded by Councilwoman Odessa Gregg. Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked if the Mayor would be sitting down with the Club Directors to discuss renewing the lease with the Boys & Girls Club, to which the Mayor responded yes. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped February 11, 2014